<u>PATENT</u>

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed March 15 9, 2001. Claims 1-20 have been canceled. Claims 21- 25 have been added. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Drawings

In sections 1-5 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner made numerous objections to the drawings.

Attached to this specification are proposed changes to the drawings marked in red ink.

Original Figures 5 and 6 have been canceled. Reference to these drawings in the specification has been deleted per the above amendments to the specification.

On Figure 2, reference letters F, L, V, and S have been added. Reference numerals 14A and 62 have been added. Reference numerals 15A and 22 have been corrected.

On Figure 3, reference numeral L1 has been corrected, as well as the lead line for reference numeral 24.

On Figure 4, reference letters S and H have been corrected. Reference numerals 34 and 48 have been corrected. Reference numeral 65 has been added. The section line for 5-5 has been deleted.

These changes are believed to overcome the objections of the Examiner.

Specification and New Claims

Numerous corrections have been made to the specification to comply with issues raised by the Examiner. These corrections are believed to overcome the objections of the Examiner.

Original claims 1-20 have been canceled. New claims 21-25 are presented with this amendment. Applicants respectfully request a full examination of claims 21-25 on the merits.

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A Petition For Extension Of Time Under 37 CFR 1.136(a) for three months to reply to the Office Action accompanies this Amendment. Furthermore, Form PTO-2038 accompanies the Petition and this Amendment.

Any questions concerning this amendment should be directed to the below-signed representative at 734-354-5583 (telephone) or 734-451-2547 (facsimile).

In view of the amendments and above remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Michael Tucker Reg. No. 32,539

Freudenberg-NOK General Partnership 47690 E. Anchor Ct. Plymouth MI 48170-2455

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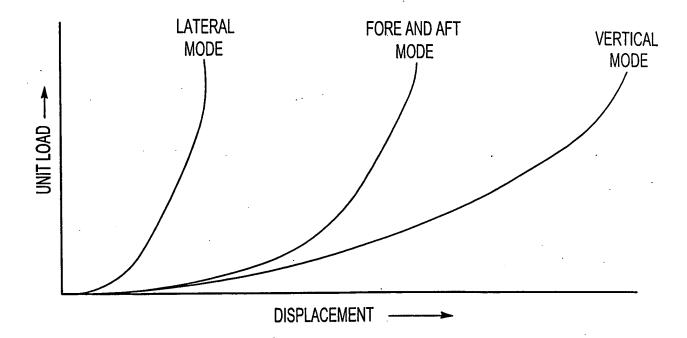
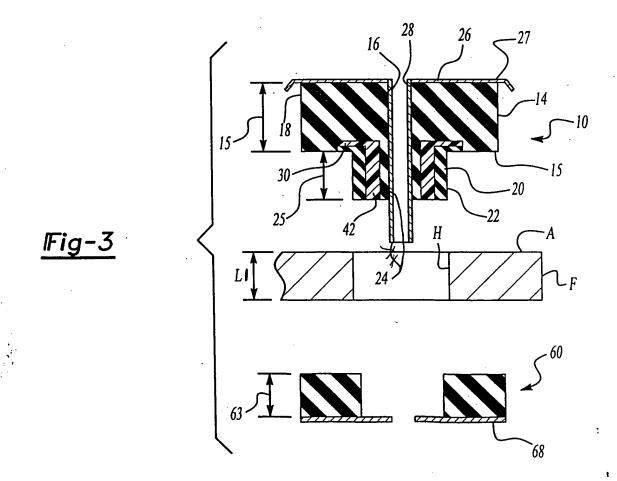
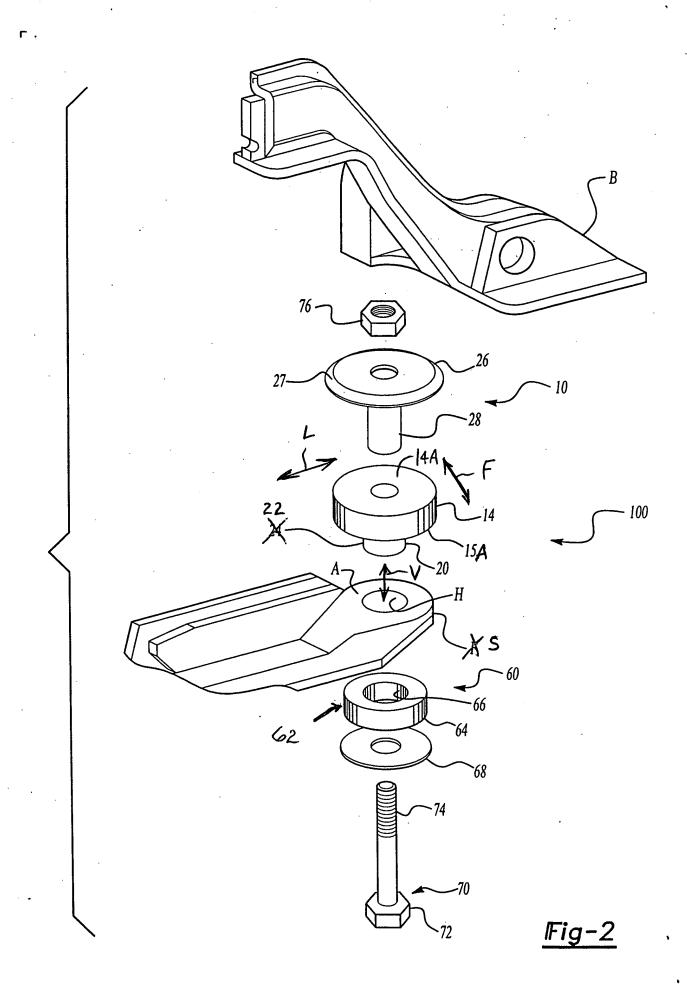
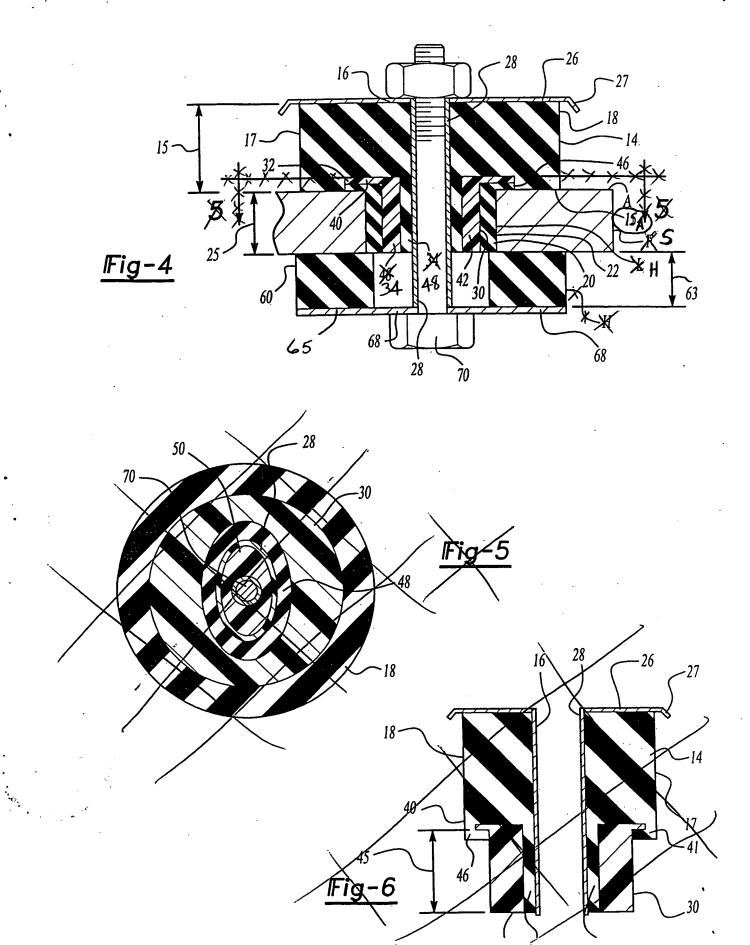


Fig-1







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